

Wichita Eagle

M. M. MURDOCK, Editor.

An important date and question: May 12

The soft ear of the heathen does not like our Blair.

The president will soon turn his face towards Indiana.

Literature and beans are the chief resources of Boston.

Ingalls probably does not sweat when he works. He perspires.

Peffer can now come home and go into his hole. The oyster season closed yesterday.

Bourbon county refuses to raise her apportionment of \$1,750 for the Chicago world's fair.

Jerry Simpson is undergoing a reaction. You hear as little of him now as you do of Sam Wood.

Blaine's reply to Rudini is still vexing the Italians. The printers of Rome have gone out on a strike.

The next time Italy offers to decorate any of our citizens it will probably be with a galling gun.

The more chinch bugs Professor Snow kills, the more they crowd into the state from Nebraska and Iowa.

The railroads refuse to grant "rates" to the Alliance convention at Cincinnati, but are berating the meeting.

If Cleveland is elected in ninety-two, the chances are that Harrison will never get his face on a postage stamp.

The lightning turned a clock back four hours in Connecticut the other day. This will put Indiana on its guard.

The police have come to the conclusion that Jack the Ripper's other name is Jack the Skipper. He is a seaman.

A man in Austria killed his mother-in-law day before yesterday. The influence of our funny papers is far-reaching.

Edward Bellamy's paper got the new senator's name "Puffer." The "ignorant type" deserves a medal in this case.

Some body is going to be left out in the cold on the Bolkin impeachment case, and be very hot in consequence.

The first question a man who has called on Grover Cleveland asks is "Where is the nearest newspaper office?"

Tim McCarthy, the new G. A. R. commander, is an old soldier truly. He served in the regular army before the civil war.

Sol Miller has been so busy this spring writing obituaries of prominent Kansans that he hasn't had time to discover Sam Lapping again.

Peffer calls himself a "living petition sent to congress." This may be true, but to the public he is a moldy musty polygraph.

Plenty Cause, a Crow chief, is making himself conspicuous in Montana. But why should a Crow chief spell "Cause" without a "w"?

A young Englishman from Africa says that the first manifestation of religion in a South African is to form a "prey" to drink.

The Salina Republican when it states that there is not one great warrior living, does a great injustice to the gallant Col. William Hackney.

The strained patience of the public at the Bolkin trial, shows clearly with what fatal results, an extra session might have been called.

The new mayor of Chicago, Mr. Washburne, is going to clean out all public gambling. His movement is not a mere feat but means business.

Mr. Ingalls with all his agricultural qualities does not probably know as much about a Peck measure as the general solicitor of the Santa Fe.

Everybody who comes from Africa disputes some of Stanley's statements. Mr. Stanley is either a liar or the informers consummate rascals.

The communication of yesterday dated "Hukle" and signed "Hinkle" should have been signed "Hukle." The contributor was from the pen of Hon. R. J. Hukle.

The tin plate and tin factory liars are still abroad in the land. We hear of new tin mine discoveries daily also, but have been unable to locate any "tin" arising from all the talk.

Victoria has returned home. Our president does not have to leave his own country to find a picknicking ground, which is both a compliment to our country's quality and the chief officer's patriotism.

One thing seems plainer every day of Harrison's trip, and that is if the Democrats would elect the next president they can run like a scared wolf and talk like a streak of lightning.

The Santa Fe road is already beginning to corral all its stock cars and sending them to New Mexico, Arizona and Indian Territory to remove the great herds of cattle to the north. The first shipment will be made this week.

Gen. Francis E. Spinner provided in his will that his eccentric and famous autograph should be cut in fac simile on the monument of the family. The monument will probably have a picture of Columbus discovering America engraved on it also.

The mistake Blair made was in not getting Blair for his mission a month earlier. He could have then fired a reply at the Chinese potentates, and by the time he got to the peroration he would have been there long enough to get a pretty good idea of the country.

KANSAS AT CHICAGO.

That scheme gotten up by the so-called State Agricultural society in conjunction with some fellows who want places for the raising of fifty or one hundred thousand dollars to defray the cost of a state display at Chicago is not going to work. The EAGLE said so in the first place. The wrong elements got hold of it. That State Agricultural society, so-called, are a long time finding out that they don't represent the farming interests of this state, nor never have. The society represents a ring, and incidentally a few scattering local politicians of the several towns of the state who have been able to catch on. But both farmers and business men are going to refuse, and if the money is not forthcoming from real estate agents and speculators and home local state aspiring politicians, the next move will be to get an extra session of the legislature. Then there will be fun. Of course the Alliance would be first appealed to, then the governor. All kinds of promises and assurances will be made as to the cost of such extra session and Governor Humphrey no less than the Alliance leaders will be first into the sweat box. Sedgwick county's portion of the sum to be raised could not be less than \$5,000, which would have to be contributed by Wichita, practically. As Wichita contributed \$5,000 cash in the name of the state two years since to the Ohio Valley exposition at Cincinnati and could not even get the state papers to favorably mention the work she did there, or to tell of the gold medal and the premiums carried off, it is not very likely that the city will lead off with a \$5,000 subscription now. But we shall see what we shall see.

TWO MILLIONS.

Kansas City bonded herself this week for two million dollars for new water works. It was the last week that that place can vote under the state law. It seems that this extreme measure was taken and awful debt assumed because of dissatisfaction with the present water works company. The interest on this vast municipal debt will be about three hundred and thirty-three dollars per day at five per cent, or two thousand dollars per week. If Kansas City was now in either population, business or values what she was two or three years ago such an additional municipal tax might have been borne with average amount of grumbling and kicking, but as it is tax-payers will sweat and groan more than they do now under the extortions of a water company which that people have tried apparently out of revenge to bankrupt. The chances are that the present water company will put up a job and unload its plant on the city.

With the passing of Mottle all but two of the conspicuous figures of his epoch have been ushered out. The fighters in the Prusso-Austrian war of 1866—William I, the "Red Prince," Frederick Charles, Frederick III, the third Napoleon, Bismarck, Chancy and Canrobert—all have gone long ago. And of the men who figured prominently in the Franco-German war of 1871 only Bismarck and MacMahon are still living.

The Chicago News says that Wisconsin has but one live poet laureate and that her name is Mrs. Ella Wheeler Wilcox. Taking on the Wilcox knocked all the poetry out of Ella, who as an unmarried Wheeler and longing maid wrote things that made the blood tingle, but who in the experience and philosophy of a satisfied life writes nothing worthy of note. Her star has set.

Whether it be the Berlin sea and England, or the glorious hanging match at New Orleans and Italy, or Blair and the almondest celestial dignity, Jim Blaine, the ideal man from Maine, holds each with the hand of a master, and keeps a weather eye on all the reciprocity snares.

The people of Minnesota will not soon hanker after another Alliance legislature. The women are to be permitted to keep on their drawers as before and editors will not be compelled to append their names to every article they write, but the governor's veto and not the legislature is to be thanked.

The New York papers are full of intimations that James G. Blaine has finally concluded to refuse the use of his name as a presidential candidate next year. Until Mr. Blaine's letter of declination is actually published over his own signature it will be well for politicians to treat these rumors tentatively.

UNIVERSAL BENEFACTORS.

The Kansas Farmer, criticizing President Harrison's excellent and sensible letter to the Kansas City Calamity Jambores, says:

The farmer who claims a good living, and insists upon having profit for his work, should, the president thinks, be willing to concede the same to every other man and woman who toils. All this is very pretty on the part of the president, and nobody will take issue with him at all, but the singular part of it is that the president seems to imagine that the farmers are asking something for themselves which they do not concede to others, when precisely the reverse of this is true. What the farmers ask is justice to all men.

Here is something new learned this day. We presume that when the above named paper speaks of the farmers, it means the farmers as organized into the Alliance, and holding to the measures adopted by it. If there is anything in that organization that is not utterly selfish, and exclusively for the benefit of one class, and against all other classes, we have failed to discover it. People of every other class almost rejoice when the farmers are prosperous, for they are the foundation of all prosperity; but the farmers themselves, as represented by the Alliance, do not reciprocate the good wishes. Let us see what they ask for themselves and concede to others.

They asked for the abolition of the tariff, so that they should not be taxed to foster eastern manufacturing industries, and which in most cases less than one-half what the American laborer receives. Here the member of the Farmers' Alliance demands that goods shall be cheapened to him at the expense of the factory laborer.

They asked, and their branch of the legislature attempted to pass, a law cutting down railroad freight rates to a figure never before attempted, in order

that the cost of hauling their grain to market should be reduced to a low figure. Had the bill passed, it would have compelled the railroad companies, in order to avoid bankruptcy, to have saved themselves by reducing the wages of the laboring men employed in operating the roads—a result so inevitable that the railroad employees united in a monster petition to the legislature, praying it not to pass the bill.

The printers of Kansas are laboring with the printers of Kansas. The printers of Kansas have done more to develop Kansas than the farmers themselves; yet the branch of the legislature representing those farmers attempted to cut down the wages of printers almost one-half, and did cut down the wages of laboring men and women employed in the state institutions, in order that extortionate pay might be given to officers who belonged to their order.

These farmers contend as one of their "great principles," for a system of money-lending by the government to farmers, at a rate of interest lower than can be had by any other class, and under which system no class but farmers and land owners could receive government aid.

These farmers demand, as another "great principle," that the government shall establish at the expense of all the tax-payers, great warehouses in every county, where the farmers may store their grain, and receive advances of money from the government on it, until such time as a scarcity of grain in the market forced the price sufficiently high to satisfy their avarice. In other words the government should supply the farmers with money to live on, to enable them to realize a price on their grain that would double the cost of living to every laboring man and to every person who eats bread.

These farmers demand the suppression of all trusts and combines by which the cost of farm machinery, binding twine, or other articles used by farmers is increased; and yet, at every time when wheat, corn, and potatoes, and other crops are selling for a better price than they have for many years, the farmers here in Kansas are forming a trust for the purpose of forcing the price of grain still higher, by withholding it from market, and by its scarcity causing a famine.

In short, the demands of the farmers in the Alliance, if carried to success, would result in doubling the price of every article of produce they raise, thus increasing the cost of living to the laboring man; while the price of everything produced by every other class, including the laborer, would be largely reduced, in many cases more than one-half. The Farmers' Alliance has never attempted the passage of a law that would benefit the laboring man, or any other man except the farmer, and every measure they advocate is such as would increase the cost of living and reduce the wages of the laboring man.

Another point upon which these farmers are in favor of justice and equal rights, is exemplified in the boycott. Whenever a railroad or other company, or a newspaper does not do just according to their ideas, their first thought is to boycott them, by withdrawing patronage, and passing resolutions demanding that all Alliance men do likewise. A newspaper may criticize the Republican or Democratic party, or even the Farmers' Alliance, but when a Republican or a Democratic paper does the same thing with the Alliance, it is an outrage, a sin against the Holy Ghost, and at once the order goes out, "boycott him! break him down!"

And finally, while railing continually against monopolies, these farmers are the greatest monopolists in America. They are monopolizing all the first-class hogs in the country, and getting them sold at a price which would give the kind of hogs that are in favor of justice to all men, and who do not ask for anything that they are unwilling to grant to others—in a hog's eye.

CLEVELAND AND FREE COINAGE.

Why does not Mr. Cleveland, instead of lacking and filling on the free coinage question and disgusting everybody by his display of cowardice, come out and state his position frankly? Why does not he place himself on safe ground by saying, "I am in favor of the free coinage of silver, each dollar to have enough of the white metal to make it worth as much as a gold dollar, and for a silver dollar with 45 grains of silver in it instead of 37 1/2, the people to have just as many of them as they want."

No eastern Democrats could find fault with that position. They would admit his honesty, and the stumpstall silverites would either have to accept it, or admit that what they wanted was free coinage of light weight dollars to be used for the dishonest purpose of cheating creditors. And the minute the "stumpstallers" owned up that their free coinage meant only cheating and cheating most of their power for mischief would be gone, for the people are honest at heart and will not favor a swindling device when they know it so to be such.

Would Mr. Cleveland take this stand he would occupy the position Mr. Blaine did in 1878, when sixty per cent of the voters were in favor of the double standard and the coinage of silver legal tender dollars, but he wanted each of them to have a billion enough in it to be equal in value to a gold dollar. At that time the difference between the two standards was only about 15 or 17 cents, while it is now about 15 or 17 cents, while it is now about 15 or 17 cents, while it is now about 15 or 17 cents.

Many felt on this subject as Mr. Blaine did, but they hoped that England and the nations of Europe could be persuaded to abandon gold monometallism and adopt bimetalism, so that the result would be to demand a gold coin to a parity with gold. They were disappointed. The various international monetary conferences which have been held were fruitless, and gold and silver are further apart than ever.

False profits should not lead Mr. Cleveland from following in Mr. Blaine's footsteps. He cannot find a safer teacher. So let him drop this business of saying one thing one day and something that nullifies in the next, and come out flat footed for the free coinage of silver dollars, each of which shall contain a gold dollar's worth of silver. On that position he would be unassailable in his own party.

ITS SOUTHERN ORIGIN.

Mrs. Otis, of Topeka, wife of the Alliance congressman, Otis, furnishes the Topeka Advocate the following history of the Alliance:

The Farmers' Alliance was first organized in Texas, Lampasas county, in 1875, to protect the farmers against the cattle kings, and afterwards, and permanently organized at Pottsville, which was afterwards consolidated with the Louisiana Co-operative union, under the name of the "Farmers' Alliance and Co-operative union of America." This was subsequently merged with the National wheel. The wheel was originally started from the Waterless Farmers' club, of Prairie county, Arkansas, in 1873; three years after it absorbed the Brothers of Freedom, of that state, and in five years it grew to be an organization of half a million of short crops. It became a national organization at Littlefield, Ark.

The next important meeting was at Meridian, Miss., where the National wheel and the Farmers' Alliance and Co-operative union met and was consolidated under the name of the Farmers and Laborers Union of America.

OKLAHOMA OUTLINES.

Okahoma is full of Queens of the May. El Reno is getting a twenty-ton ice plant. The organization of the territorial militia has been begun. Some people in Oklahoma think the Terrills will hang, surely.

The five civilized tribes are making an organized move against intruders. The Indian agent will pass over \$70,000 to the Sac and Fox Indians this week.

The assessor in Oklahoma at this time should be a man with a great big heart as well as sharp eyes.

There isn't going to be any knees worn out of trousers in praying for rain this summer in Oklahoma.

There is a rumor that the Oklahoma editors will charter a car to go to Denver. That sounds dreadfully fishy.

Nancy Harlan, a Cherokee, at Table Mountain, is 91 and does work for seven in the field and tends and sews without glasses.

Some fellow roasts Purcell in a Texas paper. He says that half the population are marauders and the other half cowboys.

Sam Paul's case at Paris in which he was charged with shooting his son Joe was not pressed by the prosecuting attorney's instructions.

Vinita has the honor of being the only place in the Indian country that has had a fair. But it will have to relinquish that fame after this fall.

There is such a thing as wearing a new suit. The Canadian river has got on a "buster" so often that the papers don't mention it any longer.

The Oklahoma papers ought not to run down Kansas. What is good for Kansas is good for Oklahoma. When one falls the other must not prosper.

The man who left Oklahoma last fall will be back this summer to see the fine fields and will want to borrow money to hire a strong man to kick him.

The poets will have to fix it up some way in the future, for the king of kings in Oklahoma this year, as both cotton and corn are going to be kings.

When Jay Gould said that South McAllister would be the metropolis of the territory he made every man in Oklahoma feel that he was a king.

What is the matter with Thompson of the Guthrie News? He says: "Boys and dopes only want to marry beautiful women." Grover Cleveland is a duffer.

The Guthrie land office, according to instructions from the interior department, is fast closing up the cases on hand and clearing its books. It positively wind up all the contests by June 30. An oddity in the line of religion is a Holiness revival conducted in a school house one mile north of Columbia, by three men preachers. They are attracting large crowds, holding services every night.

Purcell Register: There is kicking at a vigorous rate among the adopted white citizens of the Choctaw nation over the bill passed by the council providing for the distribution of the money to be received from the United States for the leased lands. A man or woman with only the money, but the white man who has married an Indian cannot get a cent. There is a C. W. Davis, of Kansas, on the wheat area of the world. In these contributions Mr. Davis makes the prediction that within four years the United States, in place of being the greatest seller of wheat to the European and tropical countries, will itself become a buyer.

Among the most interesting and impressive magazine articles of the last year are a series contributed to the Forum and Atlantic by Mr. C. W. Davis, of Kansas, on the wheat area of the world. In these contributions Mr. Davis makes the prediction that within four years the United States, in place of being the greatest seller of wheat to the European and tropical countries, will itself become a buyer.

Mr. Davis shows by an interesting table that the production of wheat in the United States increased from a trifle less than 200,000,000 bushels annually in 1855-59 to 464,000,000 annually in 1880-84, or 132 per cent, the amount exported increased from 2,000,000 in 1855-59 to 130,572,000 in 1880-84, or 6500 per cent. From 1855-59 the amount produced fell off to an annual average of 435,517,400 bushels, a reduction of 6.2 per cent, and the amount exported to 118,033,391, a reduction of 31.1 per cent.

The decrease in wheat production was due to the more profitable production of other crops, the wheat area in the United States having decreased in the last five years 24 per cent, or about 1,000,000 acres. The natural increase in the demand for other staples, due to the advance in population, would require an increase of 2,000,000 acres in the United States by 1895, the increased acreage being necessarily taken from the area now devoted to wheat. The fairly fertile lands of the United States remaining to be brought under cultivation do not exceed, according to Mr. Davis' statistics, 34,000,000 acres, and a large proportion of this area consists of land occupied by Indians in the Indian territory and by the vast forests of the extreme north, neither of which being profitable for many years to come. From 1870 to 1880 the wheat acreage of the world increased 22,700,000 acres, of which the United States contributed 12,000,000 acres, or over 51 per cent. From 1880 to 1890 the increase was 5,700,000 acres, of which the United States did not contribute an acre, withdrawing in fact to the extent of 1,000,000 acres. From 1870 to 1880 the bread eating population increased to 10 per cent, and the wheat and rice acre increase in acreage was but 2 per cent.

Mr. Davis estimates from the statistics in his possession that the probable American wheat crop in 1895 will not exceed 406,000,000 bushels, while the certain American demand will be 407,400,000 bushels, requiring a probable importation of 840,000 bushels. The results of this deficit of the wheat supply:

Such change is impending and can not be postponed beyond 1895 unless the population shall cease to increase or the average standard of living shall be reduced greatly, and the short crops it may occur a year or two earlier, and when this inevitable change comes, the era of cheap bread and world-wide agricultural depression will end and the price of wheat and all other farm products will be higher than it has been known during and immediately after

the American Civil war; and with the advent of such prices the many millions of people employed or supported on the farms of the United States, now buying so little of the products of the shop, mill and factory, will have the means of increasing their purchases many-fold, giving business of all kinds an impetus not known since the close of such period of high prices, and cause an activity in the exchange of products the younger half of the business community has little conception of. This may be considered an optimistic view, but it will be the natural sequence of converting a great and impoverished rural population into one having ample means to minister to their comfort, and an abundance to spare for the gratification of such higher needs and longings as are the common heritage of the race.

No account is taken in Mr. Davis' article of the important fact that the full producing quality of the area already under cultivation has by no means been reached. This factor, the problem would tend to diminish the force of his conclusion. He leaves out of the problem, merely referring to them incidentally, the land areas which may be brought into cultivation by irrigation. The arid region will not be an element in the discussion during the remainder of the century, but will increase the wheat area by a significant addition in time.

CANVASSING AS A BUSINESS.

One Hundred Thousand at It in This Country, Though It Pays Poorly.

"You often see advertisements for agents to sell one article or another promising \$100 a week to a lively man, but there is no such money in the business," said an old hand to a reporter the other day. "A clever man can clear twenty-five dollars a week as a traveling salesman or canvasser if he has a really first rate thing to dispose of, but that is about the limit."

"Of course I am not speaking of the regularly employed commission agents who drum for large houses and often get big salaries, but of the army of people, probably 100,000 strong, who spread themselves from the big cities all over the United States in pursuit of orders for everything under the sun that is marketable by a subscription book to a patent instantaneous mustard plaster. Of that number 50,000 are book agents. It is that line which is chiefly affected by women who do not hesitate to employ all the persuasions of their sex in the pursuit of their industry. Opposed to them the male book agent is at a disadvantage, having neither smiles nor tears that would be effective where with to extort a subscription from the unwilling customer. Besides, a woman is not likely to be kicked out or have a dog set upon her."

"Undoubtedly the modest sex is that in petticoats, but when it comes to selling books a woman can usually discount a man every time. Way, I know two in this very town who do not hesitate to go to receptions at private houses unasked and tackle any one with whom they may get into conversation, drawing from their pockets their books and offering them to the lady who is trying to circulate. One advantage only that I know of is possessed by the male book agent which his female rival does not possess, and that is his opportunity of exercising his fascination upon the servant women wherever he goes, who are very much addicted to buying books in that way."

"In the trade there is a distinction made between the salesman and the canvasser, the former selling at wholesale usually and the latter at retail. A traveling agent sells either on the installment plan or for cash, or both ways. On cash sales he gets 40 per cent of the proceeds as his commission; if he sells on the installment plan, by which the purchaser pays so much on what he buys, he receives 20 per cent when the order for the article is delivered by him to the firm which employs him. Goods are sent him C. O. D. for cash purchasers; the agent returns the full amount he receives, and out of that is given his commission. Agents are not allowed to sell goods for less than the prices indicated on the lists of the firm, though they are permitted by some concerns to sell for more if they can."

"Next to the book agents canvassers for patented articles are most numerous, and this sort of canvassing has increased very largely within recent years. Tea, coffee, silverware and pictures are extensively sold in the same manner. Female canvassers confine themselves almost wholly to light literature, such as novels or books of poems, photograph albums, charts, silverware and dress-making cards."

"Yes, we lose a great deal of money by the dishonesty of people who buy on the installment plan and do not pay. I suppose that we have to put down 7 or 8 per cent of our sales on that basis as dead loss, but we are reconciled to it by the fact that we charge more for the goods when cash is not paid—enough additional, in fact, to recoup us. We can afford, therefore, to take chances. Installment buyers are notoriously slow and delinquent in their payments, but mild threats, judiciously formulated, usually fetch the money where nothing else will serve."—Washington Star.

THE JEWEL CASSET.

A tortoise shell hairpin is ornamented with a blue knot of gold.

A silver brooch has a horseshoe of forget-me-nots, within which is pendant a moonstone heart.

Lorgnette handles are still made in tortoise shell elaborately carved, some of them being profusely set with diamonds.

A brooch in the form of a heart in white enamel, above which is a diamond set in a serpent form of small diamonds.

A Broadway jeweler has a ring made in the form of a curb chain, with a sapphire and two diamonds, each in a square setting.

A candlestick recently shown is very pretty. The foot is of silver and the candle is set in the center of a large waterlily. Made accompanying it is in the form of an inverted water lily.

A costly pair of opera glasses is made in gold and black enamel. The enameled portion is covered with a series of trefleto outlined with small diamonds, alternating with single rubies, and each of the lenses is surrounded by a row of small diamonds. There are in all 1,152 stones.

An odd case for a miniature set was recently placed on exhibition by a prominent silversmith. An etched design on the cover shows five cards, forming what is known among poker players as "a straight flush." Beneath the cards is the inscription, "A fairly good hand."

New forms of the bow knot in brooches are constantly appearing in every possible combination of stones. A gold and pearl brooch in the form of a lyre, and another showing a wreath of forget-me-nots surrounding a moonstone heart set in silver, are very attractive pieces of jewelry.—Jewelry Weekly.

WAYSIDE CLEANINGS.

Of the twelve largest cities in the world three are in Japan.

The largest state prison in the United States is located at Jefferson City, Mo.

Fifty-seven out of ninety-seven high school principals in Michigan are women.

The fund of \$2,000,000 which Mr. Peabody left for the poor of London now amounts to over \$5,000,000.

A Chinese newspaper published in San Francisco has been used for fuel by a negro and an Indian.

The Frenchman habitually raises his hat when a funeral passes him on the street—a rare spectacle in America.

Under the new law no pension attorney can claim more than two dollars for securing an increase of pensions.

A new room has been discovered in Wind Cave, near the South Dakota hot springs, 100 feet long, 75 wide and 50 high.

The chance to Germany from voluntary to compulsory vaccination reduced the death rate from smallpox from 34 per cent to 3 per cent.

The first voyage around the world was made by the Victoria, a ship which formed part of the expedition which sailed under Magellan in 1519.

The Requirament on going to bed strip off all their clothing and huddle together under blanket robes. The males scarcely ever wear their face and hands, and their bodies never.

Sootpioneers largely live in China for preserving structures built of sandstone and other stones liable to crumble from climatic effects. It is powdered and put on in the form of paint and will preserve buildings for hundreds of years.

HISTORICAL BURNINGS.

The first devastating fire in America was probably the one occurring at Boston, March 10, 1780, when 500 buildings and stores were burned, causing a loss of \$500,000.

The Chicago fire, Oct. 9, 1871, was one of the largest in all history, devastating an area of 3 1/2 square miles and causing a loss of about \$100,000,000. Two hundred and fifty lives were reported lost in this fire.

It is not generally remembered that Julius Caesar burned a library of 700,000 volumes at Alexandria, known as the Brucia library, B. C. 48, nearly 700 years before the burning of the Serapion library by Omar I.

The burning of the Serapion library at Alexandria, in the year 640, by the Caliph Omar I. is most widely mourned, as the destruction of 500,000 volumes cut off much of the record of human knowledge at that time.

In November, 1873, Boston was visited by a fire which extended over an area of sixty-five acres, burning the best mercantile buildings in the city, and causing a damage of \$75,000,000, on which there was an insurance to over \$60,000,000.

Philadelphia was swept on July 9, 1850, when a fire along the Delaware river front, at Vine street, extending over eighteen acres, caused a loss of life estimated as high as thirty-three, in addition to 120 wounded and a pecuniary loss of \$1,500,000.

Jerusalem has been burned time and again, the most noted instance being at the siege by the Romans during the year 70, when a faction called the Sicarii set the city on fire in many places, and 1,000,000 of the inhabitants perished by fire and the sword.

Constantinople has, like all oriental cities, suffered severely from fires, a large part of such losses being undoubtedly due to the fatalism of the Mohammedans, who bow to their kismet. Said a sultan, "If it be the will of Allah that my favorite city burn, it is the will of Allah."

Two notable examples of contagious stoppage by conflagrations are the burning of Moscow by the besieging Tartars, in July, 1570, when the plague was stopped, and secondly the fire in London, Sept. 2, 1666, which also stopped the plague, and has been unknown there since.

One of the first of the more recent conflagrations was the burning of Portland, Me., July 4, 1857. This fire was started by a boy throwing a firecracker into a cooper's shop for the avowed purpose of scaring the workmen. In this respect the art was an unparalleled success, the damage being about \$100,000.

New York was visited by a severe conflagration in the southern part of the city on Dec. 10, 1835, which extended over an area of forty acres, destroying 674 houses and causing a loss which has been estimated as high as \$30,000,000, on which there was only \$8,000,000 insurance—an amount which ruined several insurance companies.

The London fire of Sept. 2, 1666, called the great fire of modern history, because the houses which were started in consequence of it are living lesions in the municipal affairs of today. The fire was caused by an over heated baker's oven, and in the course of four days it swept over 436 acres, burning 10,500 houses, 50 churches and St. Paul's Cathedral, causing a damage estimated to be \$85,000,000.—Scientific American.

PEN, PENCIL AND BRUSH.

A. K. Hall, of Meriden, was elected president of the Connecticut Press association at its annual meeting in Bridgeport recently.